



Vol. 2 Issue 4

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WHAT'S NEW:

**April is
National Humor
Month**

UPCOMING TRAINING and EXERCISES

**April 17-20—SNS Full
Scale Drill**

**April 24—NIMS
Training, Vernon**

**April 26-28—NIMS
Training, WCSU**

Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

This month, DEMHS is focusing on the issue of training. As everyone involved with public safety knows, training is extremely critical to the success of any endeavor. We believe that training is one of the major corner stones in all aspects of public safety response.

DEMHS has made the commitment, in partnership with our first responders that we will continue to purchase critical first responder equipment as needed, but we will be stressing training and exercising in the response plans as we move forward.

DEMHS is working with the Connecticut Fire Academy, the Connecticut Police Officer Standards Training Council (POSTC), the Department of Public Health and other training organizations at the state and federal level, to offer as many programs as possible that are needed by the first responder community. There will never be a time when training will not be a priority of our organization.

Training is an investment, and perhaps one of the best investments our organizations can make. We need to continue the message of how important training is and be committed to following through with our time and resources, so that the men and women who are responding to any situation are the best prepared that they can be!

Enjoy the April issue of the DEMHS Newsletter!

TRAINING AND EXERCISE UNIT

DEMHS Training and Exercise Unit (T&E) consists of four full time trainers, Paul Benyeda, the State Training Officer, Robert Christ, State Exercise Training Officer and Sharon Mazzochi and Robert Scata, Trainers.

DEMHS T&E is the Point of Contact for all Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Training programs delivered in state and out of state. ODP training, in state or out of state is financed through the Homeland Security Grant. There is no cost to the municipalities for the training. Out of state training includes: transportation to the site, lodging, meals and an allowance for back fill or overtime reimbursement of the person attending the training. The ODP Catalog can be access through our web site or by using the following address: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training_catalog.htm

DEMHS T&E is also the Point of Contact for all Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Emergency Management Institute (EMI) training programs. A listing of these programs can be found at FEMA's web site: <http://training.fema.gov/>

The DEMHS T&E goal has been to build a self sustaining staff to allow us to bring the training to our State's First Responder community.

Toward our goal of building a self sustaining staff, DEMHS recently sponsored a Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Train-the-Trainer class. This allows us to deliver the six (6) hour training program to our municipalities and any other organizations that request this training at no charge to the municipality or organization. The training was provided by ODP (at no cost to us) and attended by 65 Connecticut instructors.

DEMHS also sponsored an Incident Command System (ICS) Train-the-Trainer class. This class was conducted by FEMA and ODP in order to develop a state level cadre of ICS Trainers. Thirty individuals completed the eight (8) days of training and can now deliver all ICS classes throughout Connecticut.



PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): NIMS TRAINING FOR DEMHS PERSONNEL; NIMS CONFERENCE FOR CEO'S; STOP LOG DRILL, EAST HARTFORD.



PHOTOS: USAR TRAINING/EXERCISE—WEST ROCK RIDGE STATE PARK, HAMDEN, MARCH 4, 2006

DEMHS has also made arrangements with the Connecticut Fire Academy to use their Adjunct Instructors as part time instructors for DEMHS. This will supplement our existing staff in providing ICS and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and exercising throughout Connecticut in order to comply with the Governor's Executive Order #10, the adoption of the National Incident Management System across the state. We are also working with the CFA and local colleges to deliver the NIMS training to our first responder population.

Robert Christ has completed EMI's Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP). Working with Bob is a group of Adjunct Instructors who have been attending EMI to receive training in Exercise Development. This will allow us to work with our municipalities to develop and conduct drills and exercises to enhance our responders training. We are currently working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health on a Full Scale Exercise scheduled for April and the City of Norwalk for a Full Scale Exercise in the Fall of 2006.

Robert Scata and Sharon Mazzochi have recently joined the Agency and are currently working on their training requirements and various administrative tasks. Bob and Sharon recently attended a Hurricane Preparedness Train-the-Trainer at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. They will soon be delivering Hurricane Preparedness Training throughout Connecticut.

Paul Benyeda is the supervisor of the group and the Point of Contact signature for all of the ODP and EMI programs. Paul has completed EMI's Master Trainer Program (MTP), and is one of only about 50 individuals in the country to complete this program.

DEMHS has also been involved with the Citizen Corps programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the State Wide Citizen Corps Council. We have made numerous presentations to civic groups, such as Boy Scouts. DEMHS is also working with the Connecticut American Legion, one of our Citizen Corps Partners, in order to bring CERT and Citizen Preparedness programs to a larger population of our state residents.



NIMS Training Update

The Connecticut Fire Academy reports that 1125 persons completed NIMS Compliance Training in the months of January through March and another 58 classes are scheduled through out the State for the months of May and June. Congratulations on a job well done to all who have taught and participated. To schedule classes for your Town or discipline, please refer to the last page of this newsletter for information and contact numbers.

POSTC Courses Available

The following courses are only some of what is available through POSTC in the coming weeks:

April 12—Terrorism and the Suicide Bomber.

April 18—State & Local Anti-Terrorism Training—SLATT Training Program for Patrol & Investigators.

May 1-5—Post Blast Bomb Investigator's School

May 16—Weapons of Mass Destruction Executive Level Training—WMD Special Application.

For more information please visit the web site at:
www.ct.gov/post

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Currently, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has three pieces of legislation before the General Assembly. Below please find the number and title of each bill, along with a brief description:

SB 71- An Act Concerning The Disclosure of Sensitive Records-

This bill is currently on the Senate Calendar awaiting action.

Concerns have been raised to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security regarding the need to protect information provided to a state or local agency from a private source for emergency management purposes. Private companies may be reluctant to provide security sensitive information to a public agency; for fear that the information would become a public document. This bill would address these concerns by making security sensitive information provided from private sources exempt from Freedom of Information Disclosure (FOI) disclosure, if releasing the information created a health or safety risk to one or more citizens of the state. (This provision was taken out of the bill by the Government Administration and Elections Committee on March 17th, but will be addressed in an amendment later in the Legislative Session)

This bill also moves the responsibility for the determination of whether to disclose certain records under the FOI statutes from the Commissioner of Public Works to the Commissioner of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, except for the disclosure of records that may result in a safety risk to property owned or leased by the state; that determination will stay with the Commissioner of Public Works.

HB 5083- An Act Concerning The Membership of The State-Wide Security Management Council-

This bill is currently on the House Calendar awaiting action.

This bill adds the Commissioner of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to the State-Wide Security Management Council. At the time this statute was enacted (PA 99-220), the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security did not exist. Since the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's responsibilities include security planning and evaluation, membership on this committee would be consistent with these responsibilities.

HB 5085-An Act Defining "Emergency" and "Major Disaster"-

This bill passed the House of Representatives (143-0) on April 5th. It is now awaiting action in the Senate.

This bill makes the definitions of "Emergency" and "Major Disaster" conform to the federal definitions under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This will make the definitions clearer; and easier to apply in an emergency situation.



*A 24-hour team event to
raise money & awareness
to benefit
The American Cancer Society*

*June 24-25, 2006
Conard High School
West Hartford*



*This is an opportunity for the staff of
DEMHS to help a great cause while having a
good time!*

For more information visit:
<http://www.acsevents.org/relay/CTWestHartford/>

**To date the DEMHS Defenders have raised close to \$700
for Relay for Life.**

Upcoming Training & Exercise

April 17 - 20	SNS Full Scale - April 18, 19 move push pack
April 24	NIMS Training for Vernon
April 26 to 28	NIMS Training, WCSU
May 5	Presentation at 3 Rivers CC
May 15 - 19	ETO, STO Training and Exercise Conference, EMI
May 25	Hurrevac Training, SEOC
May 26, 27, 28	SART / CERT Large Animal Rescue Training, Simsbury Airport

For training and exercise questions please contact Paul Benyeda, Bob Christ, Bob Scata, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-727-9319. *Please note—this is a new number. Training office has been moved to Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.

Training is critical for first responders and is readily available through the State Fire Academy, Regional Fire Schools, and the Police Officers Training Academy. First responders include Police, Fire, Public Works, Education and 911 dispatchers to name but a few.

All of the following organizations have the ability to deliver **NIMS training** to your police officers, firefighters, public works employees, 911 dispatchers, health workers, education staff and emergency management personnel. Training can be delivered weekdays, weekends or evenings to meet your needs. The NIMS program can be delivered in four, eight or twelve hour modules depending on the duties assigned to personnel.

You should also know that these programs are available on line at FEMA's web site:
http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm

Training Facility Contact Information: call to schedule training.

Police Officers Training Council	203-238-6505
Connecticut Fire Academy	860-627-6363
Eastern CT Fireman's Training School	860-487-1105
New Haven Regional Fire Academy	203-946-6215
Wolcott Fire School	203-879-1559
Hartford County Fire School	860-828-3242
Burrville Fire Training School	860-482-7496
Valley Fire Training School	203-736-6222
Middlesex County Fire School	860-663-1308
Fairfield Fireman's Training School	203-254-4709
Stamford Regional Training Fire School	203-977-4673

All State Agencies should contact Paul Benyeda at DEMHS, 860-727-9319 to arrange training for your employees.